

For immediate release

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City of Columbus Hosts Central Ohio Children's Water Festival

In recognition of the national Drinking Water Week, the Columbus Department of Public Utilities hosted nearly 400 fifth-graders and teachers for the third annual Central Ohio Children's Water Festival on May 5. Demonstrations and presentations included an overview of the drinking water treatment process at the Dublin Road Water Plant, water tapping teams and hands-on activities.

Speakers included Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman, City Councilmember Eileen Y. Paley, Public Utilities Director Tanya Arsh, and Division of Power and Water Administrator Rick Westerfield.

“The City of Columbus pumps an average of 141 million gallons of water to homes, schools and businesses each day, and we do it in an energy efficient manner,” said Mayor Coleman. “Columbus sets the standard, and the rest of the world continues to follow our lead.”

The purpose of the event is to educate children on the water treatment process, from source to tap.

“This event gives kids a chance to participate in an interactive program that promotes hands-on learning in an interesting environment that I hope will spark the imagination and heighten the awareness of how we interact with our planet,” said Councilmember Paley, chair of the Public Utilities Committee.

Partnering agencies included:

- Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District
- Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District
- Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed
- Metro Parks
- Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
- The Ohio State University Extension
- Brown and Caldwell
- Burgess and Niple Inc.
- Malcolm Pirnie Inc.
- MWH

Participating school districts included Columbus, Westerville and Upper Arlington.

Residents interested in learning more about the drinking water treatment process and quality can view the current consumer confidence report at www.utilities.columbus.gov or request a copy by calling Customer Service at 645-8276.